

Midwest Region Society of Biblical Literature 2016 REGIONAL SCHOLAR AWARD

The Regional Scholar Award is a program developed by the national Society of Biblical Literature's Council of Regional Coordinators to recognize and promote promising entry-level scholars in the field of Biblical Studies. Its objective is to encourage their intellectual and professional development and to lend practical assistance by providing venues in which to present their work at the Society's Regional and Annual Meetings. To qualify for the SBL Regional Scholar Award, scholars should be at least ABD but no more than four years past the receipt of the Ph.D. at the time of nomination.

The Regional Scholar Award program has two phases. Each of the eleven SBL regions may select one person per year for recognition by the region as a local Regional Scholar. The various local winners are then reviewed by a national committee, and a maximum of six (but normally fewer) are selected as national Regional Scholar honorees for the following year (e.g., 2016 regional honorees compete to be 2017 national honorees).

The Midwest Region awards a prize of \$400 to its honoree. National honorees receive \$1,000 to facilitate attendance at the SBL Annual Meeting in their award year (i.e., the year after regional selection) and are recognized at a dinner on Friday evening before the Annual Meeting.

The selection process and timeline are as follows:

1. The applicant must send a letter of application (including a statement affirming current national SBL membership), CV, and recommendation letter from a professor from an academic institution in the Midwest Region by December 7, 2015, to the Regional Coordinator at MWSBL.Regional.Coordinator@gmail.com or Dr. Eric F. Mason, Biblical and Theological Studies, Judson University, 1151 N State St., Elgin, IL 60123.
2. The applicant must also submit a paper proposal for the Midwest SBL regional meeting via the region's online proposal form system by December 7, 2015, and the proposal must be accepted. This paper should not have been previously presented at another conference.
3. The applicant must submit the full text of the paper (in PDF format) by email to the regional coordinator by January 17, 2016.
4. The applicant must present the paper at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest SBL, February 5-7, 2016, at Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois.
5. The Midwest SBL Regional Scholar Selection Committee will select a Regional Scholar candidate for the Midwest SBL (or determine that no candidate will be selected) and will notify all applicants by April 15, 2016.
6. The Regional Coordinator will submit the candidate's materials to the national SBL Regional Scholar Award Selection Committee by June 1, 2016.
7. The national committee will notify those selected as national honorees for 2017 by September 1, 2016.

The major factor for evaluation is the quality of the oral presentation. As such, the paper should be designed for effective oral presentation, not as a research article prepared for publication. Criteria for the oral presentation include a clear articulation of the argument, engaging delivery, clear style and pronunciation, and creative use of audio and/or visual materials that aid the presentation. Papers should demonstrate clarity of expression and argumentation, knowledge and critical use of appropriate scholarly resources, use and mastery of primary sources, and originality of ideas and argumentation.

Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Decisions regarding the Regional Scholar will be made without regard to race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Please direct any questions to the Regional Coordinator.